

Dr. Keiller had met with a similar case nine months ago, and the child, he was happy to state, was still alive. The mother came from the neighbourhood of Cockermouth, where he (Dr. Keiller) believed goitre was prevalent; she had at one time of her life been affected with the disease. The tumour in the child's neck had become smaller since birth.

Dr. Simpson believed that there were different kinds of swellings met with in the necks of children. Large ranulæ were occasionally present from an enlargement of the salivary glands; a beautiful specimen of which existed in the late Dr. Hamilton's collection; the tumour was fully half the size of the child's head. He had himself seen two other cases which occurred in the old town of Edinburgh, both of which proved speedily fatal from the gradual enlargement of the ranulæ.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1855.

20. *Peculiar Concretions in Typhus Stools*.—ZIMMERMAN has repeatedly observed in the stools of typhus patients considerable numbers of peculiar concretions, which varied in size from that of a large Turkish to that of a common white bean. He considers that there exists some relation between them and the millet-seed-like white corpuscles which, it is known, are found in typhus stools. The concretions varied in form and appearance; some were round, others spherical; some were smooth, and others rough on the surface. They were of a yellowish-white colour, of tolerably firm consistence, but capable of being crumbled between the fingers. When chemico-microscopically examined, they were found to contain, besides large numbers of epithelial cells, various fatty matters (1,000 parts contained 237.8 of solid residue, and 156.9 of fats), among which there was almost no cholesterine; they also contained biliary constituents—a sort of albuminous substance, which Zimmerman believes to be casein and fibrin; and finally various salts (viz: sulphates, carbonates, and phosphates of soda; chloride of sodium, and earthy phosphates). The concretions differ from the corpuscles in their containing protein compounds, while the others consist of fat, with merely a little earthy matter. In the concretions, the mineral ingredients are to the organic in the proportion of 1 to 17; in the feces they are as 1 to 1; the former contain little chloride of sodium, while in the latter, this salt exists in large proportions—constituting nearly a third of the whole.

Sigmund found similar fatty concretions in the feces of a lady affected with biliary derangement (*Med. Chemie*); and Kletzinsky (*Heller's Archiv.*, I., 1853) found similar fatty matter in the cæcum of a person who had died of typhus, which was deficient in cholesterine, but contained biliary matters, intestinal mucus, and various salts, especially earthy phosphates.—*Monthly Journ. of Med. Sci.*, March, 1855, from *Deutsche Klinik.*, 28, 1853.

21. *Perforation of the Septum Cordis*.—Prof. HAUSKA, having had a heart sent him, as furnishing an example of the aorta arising in both ventricles, found, on examination, that the appearance of this being the case arose from the septum of the ventricles having become perforated. He takes the opportunity to draw attention to an anatomical fact, allusion to which he can nowhere find, viz: that there is in the normal state a spot in the septum cordis, varying in size from a bean to an almond, entirely destitute of muscular substance; the two chambers being there separated only by the layers of endocardium that line them. Examining the septum from the left, after slitting up the aorta, we may remark a thin diaphanous spot, close under the angle formed by the convex borders of the right and posterior semilunar valves of the aorta, being closed above by a thin muscular bundle, coursing along the contour of the ostium arteriosum sinistrum. In the right ventricle the deprivation of muscular substance is covered by the end of the tricuspid valve; and so thin is the duplicature of the endocardium, that the lines and markings of the finger held under it can be seen through. M. Hauska observed the appearance himself only a year since; but since then he has found it in every heart (about 300) he has examined, of whatever age or sex.

This appearance is of great interest in a pathological point of view. In endocarditis, the endocardium becomes loosened and friable, and it is not seldom

actually torn, as the rupture of the valves and the rapid formation of aneurism of the heart show. If such inflammation happened to attack this spot, a communication between the ventricles, by rupture of the endocardium, might easily result. On examining the heart sent him as an example of anomalous origin of the aorta, the ostium arteriosum sinistrum was found directed towards the right, as well as the left ventricle, while the swollen edge of the septum ventriculorum, covered with opaque and thickened endocardium, sloping from before backwards, was carried up to the middle of the orifice of the aorta. This condition necessarily arises as soon as the endocardium closing the aperture is torn. The blood of the right ventricle passes, in gradually increasing quantity, through the new opening, which becomes proportionally enlarged, and, owing to the simultaneous contraction of the two ventricles, the blood does not pass into the left ventricle, but immediately into the aorta, where it becomes mingled with the blood of the left side. This newly-established stream of blood from the right ventricle to the aorta, gradually forces the commencing portion of the aorta towards the right, so that at last the ostium arteriosum sinistrum is placed obliquely over the perforated septum, and with its orifice turned towards both ventricles.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, April 28, 1855.

22. *On the supposed Effects of the Suspension of accustomed Stimulants in the production of Delirium Tremens.* By Dr. PEDDIE.—In order to obtain some additional evidence on this disputed point, I submitted some queries to Drs. Simson and Gibson, the medical officers of the large prison establishment of this city and of Glasgow, and to Mr. Page and Dr. Scott, surgeons to the county jails of Carlisle and Dumfries; and the following information has been kindly furnished by them, as to the effect of the sudden withdrawal of all stimulants from civil and criminal prisoners known or presumed to be of intemperate habits, and the immediate substitution of prison fare, which is well known not to be of the most generous description.

As regards the prison of Carlisle, it appears that, although the annual number of commitments during the last fifteen years has been about 600; and that, although three-fourths of these are considered to have been, in one way or another, the consequence of drunkenness, Mr. Page states emphatically he has never yet seen any ill "result from the sudden abstraction of stimulants from habitual drunkards, who had been drinking to excess up to the time of being placed on prison fare." Mr. Page had also, during nine years' experience in connection with the Carlisle County Pauper Lunatic Asylum, observed the same impunity with which all stimulants could be at once withdrawn. (*Letters 9th and 21st June, 1854.*)

Of the jail of Dumfries, it is stated by Dr. Scott (*Letters 12th and 21st June, 1854*) that, during the last fifteen years, the number of civil and criminal prisoners have amounted to 5,539; that of this number he supposes about two-thirds were committed for crimes resulting from intemperate habits; that he believes a very large number to have been habitual drunkards; and that, although all of these, of course, were deprived of their usual libations, and at once put on prison allowance, only five cases of delirium tremens are found on the register of disease, and that all of these patients but one were admitted to the prison with the disease on them; and that in regard to that one, although entered as under delirium tremens on the day after admission, there is every probability for believing that *she* had had the disease on her when admitted, although not reported to be ill. Dr. Scott also notices, as an important fact, that during the time the railways were being constructed in the county of Dumfries, a very large number of navvies were committed to prison, who had led a very dissipated life for many months, and although deprived of liquor from the moment of apprehension, not a single case of delirium tremens occurred.

Then, as regards the prison of Glasgow, in which the annual commitments amount to upwards of 4,000, the experience of the year 1850 is adduced by Dr. Gibson (*Letter of 16th June, 1854*), as affording an approximation to the facts wished to be elicited. A calculation made in that year showed that, while 4,122 were imprisoned, the number of assaults, with few exceptions, committed under the influence of liquor, and "the drunk and disorderly," amounted to 1,519; and